

Common Nighthawk Watch
Frank Melville Park – Stone Bridge
2017

August 27th – **7 nighthawks – 105 minutes** – John Turner. 4 higher flying migrants, three feeding over pond.

August 28th - **5 nighthawks - 75 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, Doug Futuyma

August 30th - **26 nighthawks - 119 minutes** – Luci Betti-Nash, Patrice Domeischel, John Turner - All birds higher flying, flying directionally most going from east to west, a few from south to north. None feeding over pond.

August 31st - **5 nighthawks - 115 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, Richard Hames, John Turner - Birds arrived toward dusk, first one bird and then the others. One bird provided great close-up views as it fed back and forth above the stone bridge.

September 1st – **21 Nighthawks – 115 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner - Most birds came up west side of the pond and kept going, six were seen in the distance to the northeast of the pond, a few came down and fed over the pond toward dusk.

September 2nd – **13 nighthawks – 93 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel. Weather conditions generally calm with a slight breeze.

September 3rd – **64 nighthawks - 128 minutes** – Patrice Domeishel, John Turner, Carl Safina, Maurice Kernan, Jeff Ritter and others. Most birds stayed south of south pond moving slowly west. Had one group of nineteen birds.

September 4th – **164 nighthawks!! – 127 minutes** - Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Pat Paladines, Carl Safina, Kathleen Coyle. Mostly directional flight with birds moving from east to west. Steady stream making it difficult to count sometimes!

September 5th - **101 nighthawks - 124 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Byron Young, Bill Marrs. Weather was pleasant with a moderate breeze blowing from the west and north.

September 6th – **3 nighthawks – 60 minutes** – John Turner. Weather was rainy and strongly overcast. It had rained heavily off and on throughout the day.

September 7th – **302 nighthawks!! – 124 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Luci Betti-Nash. Sunny with blue sky and clouds. Light breeze from the west.

September 8th – **573 nighthawks!! – 122 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Carl Safina, Pat Paladines, Maurice Kernan, Tony Phillips, Eric Powers. Sunny with blue sky and clouds. Light breeze from the west.

September 9th – **36 nighthawks – 120 minutes** – Kathleen Coyle, Elaine Maas. Calm weather conditions. Some birds came down over the pond to feed at dusk.

September 10th – **17 nighthawks - 120 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner. Calm weather with sunny conditions with scattered clouds. Most birds flew westward far south of the stone bridge. One bird, a female, flew overhead feeding for several minutes

September 11th – **26 nighthawks- 115 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Luci Betti-Nash, Emily Runnels. Weather was calm with no breeze. All but two of the birds flew west far south of the stone bridge just like on September 10th.

September 12th – **27 nighthawks – 119 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, Kathleen Coyle. One lone nighthawk passed over going south to north, then changing course to go west. The next eleven were distant, south of the south pond, but circling and feeding for 20 minutes, until finally moving west. The rest moved south to northwest, 1, 2, then 12. Weather was calm with little breeze.

September 13th – **135 nighthawks – 110 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Carl Safina, Doug Futuyma, Lucy Betti-Nash, Sue Avery, Tony Phillips. Weather was partly cloudy with a very slight breeze.

September 14th - **83 nighthawks – 112 minutes** - Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Carl Safina. Sunny with clouds. Occasionally breezy with the breeze coming from the south.

September 15th – **107 nighthawks – 115 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, John Gluth. Birds moving in all directions tonight. Sunny with a scattering of clouds. Very slight breeze.

September 16th - **35 nighthawks - 131 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Maurice Kernan, Tony Phillips. Clear skies with a scattering of clouds. Very slight breeze from the south.

September 17th - **74 nighthawks – 115 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Luci Betti-Nash.

September 18th – **9 nighthawks – 105 minutes** – John Turner, Carl Safina, Doug Futuyma. Overcast with a steady breeze from the south and then turning so it came from the north. The precursor to Hurricane Jose.

September 19th - **0 nighthawks – 41 minutes**- Kathleen Coyle. Very cloudy with heavy rain with gusty winds NNE.

September 20th - **25 nighthawks - 96 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner. Overcast with a steady and strong breeze from the north. All birds except one were to the south of the watch, with birds flying west.

September 21st – **10 nighthawks - 88 minutes** – John Turner, Carl Safina, Marcus Kernan. Over cast with a strong steady breeze from the north. All birds were south of the bridge; only one came north to hunt over the north pond. Also had peregrine come in close and go after grackles and mourning dove and two immature Cooper's Hawks raz the grackles too.

September 22nd – **15 nighthawks – 90 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner. Strong breeze at about 15 mph blew from the north. All the birds were to the south.

September 23rd – **14 nighthawks – 98 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Michael Schrimpf, Emily Runnels, Maurice Kernan. Weather was clear and still and in the mid-70's.

September 24th – **16 nighthawks - 101 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Maurice Kernan, Carl Safina, Purbita Saha. Weather was warm with no breeze. Birds were both north and south of watch. Two and then four birds came down to feed over pond.

September 25th – **72 nighthawks – 90 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Tony Phillips. Weather was warm with generally clear skies. No breeze. Birds came from all directions, although mostly from the south. Toward dusk nine birds came down to feed over the north pond.

September 26th – **28 nighthawks – 98 minutes** – Maurice Kernan, Michael Shrimpf, Tony Phillips. Birds moving in all directions. Very still weather conditions with high humidity.

September 27th – **16 nighthawks – 87 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner. Weather was clear with cumulus clouds. A slight breeze from the north. A few birds to the north flying from west to east. Most birds coming from the south and heading north/northwest.

September 28th – **1 nighthawk – 83 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner. Weather was clear with high clouds. Temperature in the 70's. Steady wind was from the north with gusts up 25-30 mph.

September 29th – **0 nighthawks – 90 minutes** – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner. Weather was clear and cool with scattered clouds and no breeze.

September 30th – 0 nighthawks – 83 minutes – Patrice Domeischel, Carl Safina. Weather was cool and sky was cloudy. Rained for much of the day.

October 1st – 0 nighthawks – 88 minutes – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Maurice Kernan, Tony Phillips. Weather was clear and cool. No breeze

October 2nd – 3 nighthawks – 81 minutes – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Tony Phillips. Weather was clear and cool. No breeze.

October 3rd – 0 nighthawks, 80 minutes – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Tony Phillips. Weather was clear, cool, and cloudless with no breeze.

October 4th – 3 nighthawks - 70 minutes – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner. Weather was clear and cool with a slight breeze.

October 5th – 4 nighthawks – 71 minutes – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner, Maurice Kernan. Weather was warm with scattered clouds and no breeze.

October 6th – 6 nighthawks – 80 minutes – Patrice Domeischel, John Turner. Weather was warm with no breeze. Partly cloudy.

Final Totals for 2017 Season:

2,046 nighthawks

3,984 minutes

40 Days

.511 birds per minute